

A CHINESE CLAN-FIGHT.

TWO HONGKONG RESIDENTS IN DANGER.
Two young Hongkong men who at the end of last week went on a trip up the Pearl River above Canton found themselves in the unique but rather perilous position of being embroiled in a Chinese clan-fight and were forced to make haste out of the countryside. They sailed from Hongkong on the *Honam* and arriving at Canton in the evening took a paddle-junk up the river to the village of Sapohing, Salotow prefecture, which was reached early on the following morning. On arrival at Sapohing they discovered that a state of war existed between that village and the neighbouring village of Tancho.

These places are situated about 50 miles above Canton. The origin of the trouble is thus explained. A young man from Sapohing made a visit one evening to the neighbouring village of Tancho, where he indulged in gambling at the *fa-tan* tables and lost money. But instead of losing his cash with the good grace of a veteran gambler he became nasty, accused the master of the place of cheating and snatched some money from the table. Thereupon the master hit him on the face and he retaliated in like fashion. There the matter appeared to have been ended. The young man went back to his own village that night. But it seems that the affair rankled in his mind, for he informed the elders that he had suffered an insult and demanded that they, the Chun clan, should take action towards getting an apology from the others, the Cheah clan. The elders after consultation among themselves went over to the Cheah village and insisted upon an apology being tendered. To this the Cheah elders assented readily, and paid the complainant some \$2 or \$3 dollars by way of compensation and also supplied him with some medicinal balls with which to treat the injuries he had got on the face.

This was not considered by him, however, to be sufficient reparation. Seeing that his own village elders would not support him in any further action he went to another village of the Chuns, in the hope of finding a recitation of his wrongs, and incited them to take summary revenge upon the Cheahs. Accordingly some 40 of the villagers next day set out for the Cheah village, armed with Mauser rifles. They took up a position on a hill behind the village and fired 300 or 400 shots into the ancestral hall. Then the Cheah villagers got infuriated over the outrage and demanded an apology from the invaders. The Chuns replied that they would fight the quarrel out.

That was the stage at which matters stood when the two Hongkong gentlemen got there. The elders of the villages then agreed that there should be peace, and an armistice was drawn up in accordance with the understanding arrived at and was signed with the ancestral chop of each of the contracting parties. This agreement the Chuns accepted in all good faith and they went back to their village and made merry over the event with a feast of cakes, sweetmeats and samshu. They put away their arms, knocked down the defences that had been hastily erected to repel the invaders and were at the height of their merry-making when without any warning a large force of men from the Cheah village fell upon them. The attacking party numbered some 600 men—400 with Mausers and 200 coolies. Of course the Chun village was entirely unprepared for the attack. The aggressors made an entrance into the village and carried all before them. They sacked 17 houses. First of all they directed their attention to the looting of a rice-shop; from it they carried away between 400 and 500 piculs of rice, three cows, half-a-dozen pigs, and they killed seven or eight more pigs which they were unable to take with them. Also they shot dead an old woman 60 years of age. The doings of the invaders naturally caused the greatest possible alarm in the village. All the inhabitants were called to arms, doors and gateways were barricaded, and for half-an-hour or so there was a sharp exchange of fire.

When the attack first began the women of the village sought safety in flight. The two daughters of the "squire" of the village tried to effect their escape by running into the adjacent paddy-fields but they were intercepted by the Cheah men and stripped of their clothing and jewelry. Their cries attracted the attention of the Chuns, who went to their rescue and beat off the enemy. Thereafter the Chuns returned home but so great was their fear of a night attack that all the women and children went to seek protection in the neighboring friendly villages leaving only the fighting men in the place. A council of war was called and it was resolved that as the Cheahs had broken the peace contract the ten Chun clans should be asked to assist in the punishment of the aggressors. The clans responded readily to the invitation and late that night began to pour into the village armed with barbed wires, bamboo poles, spears, bows and arrows, and Mauser rifles. Barricades were erected round the town; cannon—six and ten-pounder—were placed in position for defence and provisions were laid in.

So serious had the situation become that next day the Hongkong visitors left the village at the urgent request of the elders, who considered that their presence might precipitate matters and interfere still further the attacking party. Accordingly they came down the river to Canton on an armed boat belonging to the village.

The Chun people have informed the authorities at Canton of the doings of the Cheahs and how they broke faith with them. It is not yet known how the trouble ended, but our informants say that the Chuns mean to fight the affair to a finish. They look lightly upon the original cause of the fracas but are determined to take ample revenge for the deadly disgrace offered to the two ladies who were stripped in the paddy-fields.

THE SITUATION IN KWANGSI.

The N.C. Daily News learns from a reliable source that in response to the demand of Governor Wang Chih-chun of Kwangsi, who deems himself insulted by people in Shanghai because they have charged him with attempting to "borrow" troops and money from the French in Tonkin, and called public meetings in Chang Su-ho's garden and elsewhere to protest against his conduct, that the Peking Central Government has sent down orders to Shanghai for the arrest and punishment of six persons residing in the Settlements on the charge of sedition and calling together seditious gatherings. Amongst these six patriots are a Hanlin, two *ch'iahs*, a lieutenant, and a Buddhist priest, a retired ex-official of high rank. The N.C. D.N. has it also on good authority that a certain high mandarin residing in Shanghai has been at the bottom of this persecution, and that when the meetings took place at the Chang Gardens he ordered the *Tsai* to stop them and arrest the leaders of the movement. The *Tsai* being more broad-minded, hesitated to take action, until he was forced to by direct orders from H. E. En Shou, the Governor at Soochow.

In its Notes on Native Affairs our Shanghai contemporary also mentions that on the 4th inst. the local mandarins received the following telegram from Kwangsi:—"The rebellion in Kwangsi is increasing and daily getting more dangerous and more formidable. The Imperial army here is too weak to be of any use and is insufficient to garrison all important cities and towns. The latest news is that the rebels have besieged the city of Chungchou, belonging to the prefectural division of Tsingling (Kwangsi province) and that unless relief is sent at once it will certainly fall into the hands of the rebels. The prefect of Tsingling, Wu, has been sending appeals for troops and the Governor (Wang Chih-chun) has therefore ordered a force under Ho Taotai and Major-General Pan to proceed to Chungchou to raise the siege." Chungchou is a departmental city, about forty-five miles north-east of Lungchow, and some twenty miles west of the Kwangtung border. Tsingling city is about twenty odd miles from the Annamese borders.

CHINA'S TRADE.

Under the heading of "Mr. Gwyther's Report" F. A. writes to the P. & T. Times on the 28th May as follows:—

I see from your report of Mr. Gwyther's speech at the recent meeting of the Chartered Bank that the petticoats of Threadneedle Street are flapping again. Mr. Gwyther is such a learned and great practical authority that his remarks are always very interesting and are very carefully perused in the Far East, therefore, when we see Mr. Gwyther deprecating action, which we are gradually being forced to believe is necessary to the growth of our trade, we can only lament, and to the best of our ability kick against the pricks. Mr. Gwyther states that there is an annual adverse balance of trade against China of £10,000,000. One wonders how long he would maintain that this adverse balance has existed. He declines in one part of his speech to give an essay on Political Economy, and then proceeds to propound that a continuous adverse balance of £10,000,000 can exist without the country becoming insolvent. Mr. Gwyther must be in possession of figures not available to residents in China, for the Customs Returns for the last ten years show an adverse average balance of about \$5,000,000. Mr. Gwyther then proceeds to give five points to be borne in mind by any Government that determines to abolish the free coinage of silver. I will deal with his points serially. (1) is self-evident. (2) The necessity of the maintenance of a gold reserve adequate for all requirements (presumably including redemption of all silver coins), has been proved to be a fallacy by the Indian Government and by the success attendant upon the many countries which, with only small stocks of gold, maintain a uniform par of exchange for their silver coinage. (3) The demand of the suddenly enlightened "native" for gold in exchange for silver, can be refused until such time as there is a sufficient reserve of gold to warrant the exchange of gold for silver. (4) The suggestion that forged coins will be numerous proves Mr. Gwyther to have been no student of similar opportunities for fraud given in the many countries that maintain coinages above their intrinsic value. If he maintains that an Asiatic people is differently constituted to an European one, I refer him to the case of India, where the able Government Committee of 1898 said that fear of illicit coinage had proved to be a bogus fear, and no case of forged coins had been brought to the notice of the Government. (5) The suggestion that impetuous States would over-issue silver coins seems to be rather out of place as advice to a Government that itself proposes to limit the number of coins in circulation. Any State that stopped free coinage would realize the disasters that would follow over-issue. Mr. Gwyther then refers to a State in the enlightened age of a fair criterion of what a State in the enlightened age might be expected to do. Now, Sir, the extraordinary thing underlying the five points is the silent and tacit acknowledgment that the stoppage of free coinage would be able to raise the intrinsic value of the silver coins. I would refer you to points 3, 4 and 5. The speaker seems hardly to have realised where his words were leading him to for he is in the midst of an animated discussion of the status quo. With regard to the supply of gold, which Mr. Gwyther suggests could only be brought by a foreign loan, he is aware that a most moderate estimate of the output of gold in China is £1,000,000 sterling annually. The introduction of foreign methods of mining will probably increase this amount in the near future. The close of Mr. Gwyther's speech, in which he speaks of the outlook of silver as very forlorn, only serves to accentuate the necessity for China's establishing a stable par of exchange.

LATE TELEGRAMS.

[VIA SHANGHAI AND JAPAN.]

THE BALKANS.

London, 25th May.

The insurgents in Macedonia have attacked the Turkish stronghold in the neighbourhood of Lake Pridba, and after thirty hours' fighting have captured the position. One hundred and fifty men were killed.

A Bulgarian band under Svetkoff has been annihilated by a Turkish force near Monastir. SOUTH POLAR ENTERPRISE.

Berlin, 2nd June.

The steamer *Gauss* of the German South-Polar Expedition has arrived at Durban.—O. Lloyd. MOROCCO.

Berlin, 2nd June.

An official circle in Berlin it is considered that the measures taken by France in order to repulse the attack of the Moorish tribes on the Governor-General of Algeria are fully justified. The *Figaro* raises the question as to whether a British Agent is in any way connected with this attack or not.—O. Lloyd.

London, 3rd June.

One French column proceeds on the 3rd of June to Fig-g, while two others simultaneously round up the troublesome tribes. The Jonart proposes to keep a force in the Fig district as long as the Moors are unable to preserve order.

London, 4th June.

It is understood that Spain has received verbal assurances from France regarding Morocco. Nevertheless the Madrid papers have a presentiment that France is taking the first step towards a preponderant influence in Morocco.—N.C. Daily News.

BRITAIN AND GERMANY.

London, 4th June.

The German Chancellor, Count Von Bülow, appears anxious to avoid anything which, by fanning anti-German feeling in England, may promote Mr. Chamberlain's ideas. The reserve shown by the German papers is regarded as showing how much the scheme alarms them.—N.C. Daily News.

SOME ARMY COMPARISONS.

In his *The Land of the Banners: or China under the Alliance*, which we briefly reviewed in these columns recently, Captain Gordon Casserly (who is very convinced as to the merits of the Indian troops) holds that the efficiency of the German Army has been much overrated. Their transport in China was exceedingly defective, and they found themselves "dependent on the kindness of the other armies for means to move from the railway." "Their knowledge of horse-manship was not impressive, their animals always looking badly kept and ill-fed." The lessons of the South African campaign have not been appreciated; indeed, judging by last year's manoeuvres, it is doubtful whether these lessons have even now been taken to heart. "The German authorities are still faithful to the traditions of close formations and centralisation of command under fire. Unbroken lines in the attack are the rule, and no divergence from the straight-forward direction, in order to take advantage of cover lying towards a flank is authorised. The increased destructive power given by low trajectory to modern firearms does not seem to be properly understood by them. The creeping forward of widely extended and irregularly advancing lines of skirmishers, seizing every cover available within easy reach, is not favoured; and the dread of the effect of cavalry charges on the flanks of such scattered formation still rules the tactics of the attack. The development of the initiative of the soldier, of his power of acting for himself under fire, is not striven after. In steady, mechanical drill the German private is still pre-occupied, but in wide expansions he is helpless without someone at his elbow to give him orders."

Of the French Army Captain Casserly's opinion is somewhat more favourable—coloured slightly, it may be, by the greater effability of the French officer. The French Army is trained in the same close formations as the German, but it can adapt itself more rapidly to extended order. The Russian troops struck Captain Casserly as determined fighters, but devoid of the power of initiative or of thinking for themselves. "The great power of the Russian soldier lies in his wonderful endurance under privation that few other European troops could support." The Japanese make ideal foot-soldiers, but the Japanese cavalry, consisting of small men of under-sized animals, would be useless in shock tactics. "The organisation, equipment, and material of the Japanese Army leave little to be desired. Their engineers and artillery are well trained, and both rendered good service to the Allies in 1900. Their Intelligence Department had been brought to a high standard of efficiency; and its perfection astonished those who are permitted to gain a glimpse of its working. The whole East is won by its spies. When the Legations were threatened, Japanese who had been working at inferior trades in Peking came in and revealed themselves as military officers who for months or years had been acquainting themselves with the plans, methods, and strength of China. Prompt and unquestioning obedience in everything is the motto of the Japanese soldier. Their courage at the storming of Tientsin city, on the march to the capital, and at the capture of Peking won the admiration of all the Allies, and their behaviour and self-restraint in the hour of victory were equalled only by their gallantry in action." The Japanese troops carried the German system of close formation to excess, but this was partly the result of their officers' desire to show to their European critics the splendid fighting quality of their soldiers whom no amount of slaughter would dismay in an attack.

THE AMERICAN FAILURE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Mr. Percival London writes under the above heading two interesting articles in the *Daily Mail*. The first of these we give below:—
Manila, March 1, 1903.

When King Radama of Madagascar was advised many years ago to organise his army, he said that he relied upon his two great lieutenants, General Hano (forest) and General Taso (ferret) more than upon his army corps. Banning northwards under Mindanao and Luzon one begins to realise the fearful difficulty of the task that the Americans had, and still have, before them in the subjugation of the Philippines. The islands lie out like a loosely thrown length of myrtle-green velvet, a rich tangle of huge vegetation from the tops of the hills to where the white teeth of the sea break under the very boughs of the mangroves on the shore. The Spaniards managed to retain their nominal sovereignty over the islands by a judicious policy of allowing sleeping dogs to lie. The Americans have set before themselves nothing less than the ridding of their writ into the last and least corner of this fever-laden jungle.

The result has been inevitable, and whether the Government calls it a war or the mere suppression of brigandage, the fact remains that they have made little progress in a war that bids fair to rival in character and duration the almost historic conflict that is still being waged under not entirely dissimilar circumstances in Sumatra by the Dutch.

Two years and a half ago I was sitting in the wide entrance of the "Oriente Hotel" in Manila thinking how curiously identical the whole scene was with the life in the central hall of the "Mount Nelson Hotel" at Capetown.

A JUMBLE OF SOCIETY AND DEATH.
There were the same old hopes and fears, the same old lies, rumours, criticisms, flirtations, miseries, and scandals; the same jumble of society and death, Monte Carlo and martial law, perhaps also the same underlying nervousness as to what the day might bring forth within the very town. A man had been killed only the week before at Santana, only four miles from the Bridge of Spain, and there was an uneasy feeling that all was not well, despite the optimism of the newspapers.

A young American officer illuminated the situation by a word. We had been talking of the war in South Africa and a touch of fellow feeling made him frank. I was asking him how I could get out to the front—what passes or permits were required, and whom to apply to. He saluted the pavement and considered.

"You," he said, with his glass at his lips, "you want to get out to the firing line?"
"Yes."
"Well, I guess"—and here half his tumbler emptied—"I guess the firing line is co-extensive with the coast-line of these islands."

To-day I am again in Manila, and again, for the best of all reasons, at the Oriente Hotel, where I hear much much about the state of the "bandits" and the prosperity of the country. But the latter has now become the more important thing.

From the papers, where the word "enemy" has been obediently discontinued for the less disquieting expression "Indonesians," one would gather that the last flicker of the war was being that day stamped out, that the Philippines were already basking in the sun of American prosperity, and that the sanguine prophecies of the commercial extinction of Hongkong were as good as realised.

A STRANGE CHALLENGE.

But the very day of my arrival there came the rumour of a strange speech in Iloilo, and two days later every one, except the newspapers, was talking of almost nothing else. It was only the local paper of Iloilo that had had the temerity to report verbatim the strongest challenge that a responsible administrator has, I suppose, ever thrown down. In effect, Governor Taft said that the islands were going to be administered by the Americans for the benefit of the Philippines and for the Philippines alone; if those Americans and others who had complained of the policy of the Government were still discontented, the obvious thing for them to do was to get out. It is true that three days later the indiscreet, little paper of Iloilo found itself obliged to print a carefully written leader deprecating the misunderstanding that had arisen, but Manila remained moved, and echoes of the speech reached one even in Japan.

It may be interesting to examine what this policy means, and how far the altruism of the authorities has been successful. A stranger must of necessity rely greatly upon hearsay evidence and the tone of many who do not care to be identified with any open criticism of the Government, as the punishment for a careless opinion has been at times considerable, as the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank clerks know to their cost. But the veriest tourist has only to travel a hundred miles along the one railroad of the islands to see that something is very wrong indeed.

In old days the extraordinary fertility of the soil provided the Philippines not only with daily bread, but encouraged a great and growing trade in the hard woods of Luzon, molave and narra, in coffee, and, of course, above all, in the famous fibres of the so-called hemp. Now, one passes through miles of deserted paddy-fields, leaking and sour, where the stubble of what should have been the last crop but four picks up desolately in the abandoned waterbeds.

THE DESERTION OF THE LAND.

You will be officially assured that this desertion of the land has been caused by a plague of rinderpest among the carabao, or water buffaloes. This is, of course, true, but it is neither the whole truth nor the most

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important part of the truth. The Government, like a sea-bird, and after that did not ship any more water. The barometer some time after began to rise, and the wind decreased. A very heavy sea, however, was left, and the *Iris* was slowed down once more. The *Iris* has on board 400 miles of deep-sea cable, in addition to a full-set of cable-repairing gear. The crew numbers 85 hands, the men having been men of the Royal Navy.

The reasons for this misfortune are freely discussed in Manila, and in my next letter I hope to represent the opinions of the men who have been seriously affected by it. It is time—high time—that the people of the United States should be placed in a position to decide whether there might not with advantage be a reconsideration of the policy of the past few years. That the expectations of 1900 have not been realised will be admitted by any one who turns over a file of old Manila newspapers; but there still is a tendency in the States to shut their eyes to the logical results of their action in the islands for which they assumed responsibility, and in which, whatever may be said, it is their duty and their intention to remain.

ORIGIN OF THE HORSE.
Professor Ridgway says he deduced from various sources the opinion "that the Arabs never owned a horse until they had become masters of North Africa, and the Barbary horses, from whom are sprung our own raising stock through Lord Godolphin's Barb. North Africa, therefore, and not Arabia, or any other part of Asia, is the original home of the thoroughbred. Now, though the pedigree of the cart-horse type can be traced to the coarse, thick-set little horses of Europe and Asia, the wild ancestor of the Barb is yet to seek, for Africa has no wild horse, such as Tarpan or Przewalsky's, though she has an ass and four zebras, including the quagga, now extinct. Can the Barb be sprung wholly or in part from a zebra? Arab foals at birth constantly have zebra markings, sometimes retained when full-grown, as by Professor Ewart's Arab filly Fatima. Strabo, too, notices that the horses of the Libyan Garabantes have longer hoofs than any other horses. Professor Ewart's hybrids from Burchell's zebra and various mares, show the markings, not of a Burchell's zebra, but of a Somaliland zebra, from which it has been inferred that the remote ancestor of both *Equus caballus* and Burchell's zebra were striped like the Somaliland mountain zebra. But is it necessary to go so far back? May not the Somaliland zebra stripes in the hybrid be due to the circumstance that the dam in each case had a certain amount of Barb blood in her, which was derived from either the Somaliland zebra or a closely allied species? Professor Ridgway's final conclusion was that "the Barbary horse, from which all the fine horses of the world have sprung, was derived either from the zebra of North-East Africa, or as is more likely, from some very closely allied species, now extinct, which, like Przewalsky's horse, may have had castors on its hind legs like *Equus caballus*."

ORIGIN OF THE HORSE.

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F. BLACKHEAD & CO.,
Navy Contractors, Sailmakers, Provision and Coal Merchants, Sole Agents for Hartmann's Baiting's Genuine Composition Red Hand Brand.

BISMARCK & CO.,
Navy Contractors, Ship Chandlers, Provision and Coal Merchants, Sailmakers, &c. Fresh Water supplied to Vessels in the Harbour.

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25 and 26, Connaught Road, Praya Central.
Shipchandlers, Sailmakers, Riggers, Commission Agents and General Storekeepers; Sole Agents for Shipowners' Composition ("Greyhound Brand") and Blandells Spence & Co.'s Composition.

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R. J. REMEDIOS,
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No. 39, WYNDHAM STREET, HONGKONG.
Will be glad to send STAMPS on approval to any address on receipt of satisfactory references.
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15 to 25 per cent. Discount Allowed. [1588]

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MONUMENTAL AND ORNAMENTAL MASONS.

Have on View and for Sale at their Marble Yard.

ITALIAN MARBLE

Statuary, Figurines, Antrils alongside Crosses, Obelisks, Columns, Baskets and Plain Crosses and Headstones; also

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Crosses, Columns and Headstones; and

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For adults and children's graves.

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made to any design in Italian and American Marble and Hongkong Grey and Blue Granite.

Special attention paid to

LETTERING IN ANY STYLE OR LANGUAGE

in imperishable lead, lead cement, gold, or black.

All work and material guaranteed to be the best and most durable.

Prices to suit the times.

Designs on application.

Orders from outports carefully and promptly executed.

Office—No. 17A, Queen's Road Central, 1st Floor. Marble Yard—No. 18, Morrison Hill Road, Hongkong.

Hongkong, 9th January, 1903. [3462]

TO LET.

TWO SPACIOUS GODOWNS—Nos. 95 and 96, PRAYA EAST.
Apply to—
H. N. MODY,
Victoria Buildings.
Hongkong, 2nd December, 1902. [62]

TO LET.

FLATS in MORETON TERRACE, CAUSEWAY BAY, facing the Polo Ground. No. 2, RIFON TERRACE (in FLATS). GODOWNS at BOWRINGTON (PRAYA EAST).
HOUSES in LIGHTON HILL ROAD.
Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LD.
Hongkong, 5th June, 1903. [71]

TO LET.

A GODOWN, No. 1, MASON'S LANE.
Rent Moderate.
Apply to—
DAVID SASSOON & CO., LD.
Hongkong, 11th June, 1903. [1688]

TO LET.

FIRST FLOOR No. 8, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL. Suitable for Office.
Apply to—
IP LAN CHUEN,
Care of Mr. A. M. Establoy,
Nos. 7 and 9, Zetland Street.
Hongkong, 11th June, 1903. [1689]

TO LET.

NOS. 1 & 3, "MAGDALEN TERRACE," Corner houses, MAGDALEN GAP.
Apply to—
SPANISH PROCURATION,
Hongkong, 1st January, 1903. [73]

TO LET.

TO LET.

"DUNHEVED" and "STONE HAVEN," ROBINSON ROAD. Each with Six Spacious Rooms and a well-ventilated Basement (Servants' Quarters attached), Verandah, Tennis Court and a large Garden.
Apply to—
SAM WANG CO., LD.,
81, Queen's Road Central.
Hongkong, 8th June, 1903. [1685]

TO LET UNFURNISHED.

NO. 33, CAINE ROAD. Available from 1st March.
"COOMBE," MAGAZINE GAP. Available from 1st April.
Apply to—
Daily Press Office.
Hongkong, 16th February, 1903. [542]

TO LET.

66 "HARTLEY" and "WESTLEY," UPPER RICHMOND ROAD. "STONY BROOK," LOWER RICHMOND ROAD.
Apply to—
LAU CHU PAK,
Care of A. S. Watson & Co., LD.
Hongkong, 2nd June, 1903. [160]

TO LET.

NO. 17, SEYMOUR ROAD or WOODLANDS WEST. To Rent from 15th JUNE.
Apply to—
E. H. H.,
Care of Daily Press Office.
Hongkong, 16th May, 1903. [143]

TO LET.

NO. 3, STEWART TERRACE, the Peak.
Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LD.
Hongkong, 8th April, 1903. [1108]

TO LET.

NO. 75, DUDELL STREET (Godown).
No. 5, STEWART TERRACE, PEAK, Furnished, from 5th June to 31st August, 1903. "WESTBOURNE VILLA," NORTH BOWLING ROAD.
No. 1, CAMERON VILLAS, MOUNT KELLY.
Nos. 7, 11, & 18, BELLISIO TERRACE, Newly Painted and Colourwashed. "BISNEE VILLA," POKFULUM ROAD, Land on sea front Kowloon Marine Lot No. 5, and admirably suited for the storage of coal.
For terms and particulars, apply to—
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Hongkong, 8th June, 1903. [104]

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SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

A SENSITIVE BALANCE—LOCUST HYPERMETER—WORK OF THE PIANIST—ANALYSIS BY ELECTRICITY—UNSATISFACTORY THERMOMETRY—ELECTRIC INSECT DESTRUCTION—A DIS-EASE OF DIET—ANESTHESINE—A MODERN DETECTIVE.

A most striking example of delicacy in weighing has been referred to by Mr. J. A. Brushner, the widely-known instrument maker.

At the International Bureau of Standards near Paris is a balance mounted in a vacuum in a heavy glass case, and provided with mechanism for handling the weights from a distance great enough to give security against influence of the heat of the body. So perfectly made are instrument and accessories that when two kilogramme weights are placed side by side on each pan the indicator finally comes to rest at zero. But when one of the weights in one pan is placed upon the other the indicator shows the opposite pan to be slightly the heavier, the almost incredible explanation being that one weight is made lighter by its slight increase of distance from the earth's centre!

The gradual disappearance of locusts in Rhodesia and other parts of South Africa is attributed by Mr. J. M. Orpen, a writer on the agriculture of the region, to a rapidly growing mould. The invisible seeds are scattered by the wind, and in favourable weather the growth attacks and destroys vast swarms of the insect. Since its discovery during the last locust invasion, the mould has been regularly distributed by the Department of Agriculture. The disease thus artificially spread has been very effective, but dryness has caused some failures.

Mosquitoes are known to live through the winter, awakening with the first warmth. A late investigation by Mr. John B. Smith proves that certain species hibernate in the adult state, others in the larval state also, others only in the larval state, and some in the egg. Many larvae survive repeated freezing and thawing.

A lately-tested section of the submarine cable laid twenty years ago between Genoa and San Francisco is in excellent condition, proving the durability of rubber-covered cables.

Quite astonishing is the rapidity of working of brain and nerves in modern piano-playing. At the Conference of Musicians in Dublin, it was shown that the ordinary player must cultivate the eye to see about 1,500 signs per minute, the fingers to make about 2,000 movements, and the brain to perceive the 1,500 signs while issuing 2,000 orders. In a part of Chopin's "Etude in E Minor" the rate of reading must reach 3,950 signs in 24 minutes. This is equivalent to about 28 notes per second, and, as the eye can receive only about 10 consecutive impressions per second, it appears that in very rapid music the notes must be read in groups instead of singly.

In his experiments in electric anaesthesia, M. Leduc has used a maximum current of 50 volts, and this was passed through electrodes of cotton moistened with saline solution, one of which was applied over the kidneys and the other upon the forehead. The current was increased to the maximum in five minutes. A numbness of the limbs was followed by loss of speech, and then by a suspension of the other faculties. The only disagreeable sensation was nightmare. The breathing was somewhat obstructed, but the heart was not affected, and consciousness, with a sense of invigoration, came instantly on breaking the current. There seems to be risk in the stoppage of breathing by too long application.

Ordinary thermometers are known to be very inaccurate, varying many degrees, and this fact throws doubt on many reports of extreme summer or winter temperatures. Even the scientific thermometers of the cheaper grades prove to be unreliable, although their indications have been placed on record as results of great precision. Medical men especially have used of tested instruments, and the late startling discovery that the thermometers of a New York hospital varied as much as 23 degrees suggests compulsory certification of professional thermometers. The error named might show a well man to have a raging fever, or a patient to be cured while still in a critical condition.

From about 400 pounds of gaseous air, Sir William Ramsay has found the krypton to equal 1 part by weight in about 7 millions, or 1 part by volume in 20 millions; and the xenon, 1 part by weight in 40 millions, or 1 part by volume in 170 millions.

An explanation of the remarkable influence of electricity upon plant-growth is found by Hugo Hellberger, of Munich, in the destruction of the injurious insects of the soil. Noticing some worms striving to get away from an ingot

would that was being dried on the ground by electricity, he placed in the earth a metal wire connected with a current of 110 volts, and soon had the pleasure of seeing all small insects within a radius of two yards come to the surface and struggle to escape from the electrified circle. In later experiments, using many wires with a very small current of high intensity, the ground was completely freed from insect life over a considerable area.

Modern science seems to show that leprosy, the loathsome scourge of many lands in the past, is among the disorders that may be easily prevented. His late investigations in South Africa and in India have convinced Dr. Jonathan Hutchinson that the disease is rarely, if ever, transmitted from one person to another, and have confirmed the theory that the cause is the eating of badly cured and poorly cooked fish. The Kaffirs, who furnish very many victims, have a depraved appetite for rotten fish.

The new local anaesthetic of M. Courtois has the advantage over cocaine of being not poisonous, while its action is much less transitory. It is a para-amido-benz



